

I shall not record all the acts of spoliation committed by second-rate ambitions aspirants who hoped to come in for their share in the division of the Continent. The Emperor's lieutenants regarded Europe as a twelfth-cake/<sup>1</sup> but none of them ventured to dispute the best bit with Napoleon. Long would be the litany were I to enregister all the fraud and treachery which they committed, either to augment their fortunes or to win the favor of the chief who wished to have kings for his subjects. The fact is, that all the Princes of Germany displayed the greatest eagerness to range themselves under the protection of Napoleon by joining the Confederation of the Rhine.<sup>2</sup> I received from those Princes several letters which served to prove at once the influence of Napoleon in Germany and the facility with which men bend beneath the yoke of a new power. I must say that among the emigrants who remained faithful to their cause there were some who evinced more firmness of character than the foreign Princes. I may mention, for example, M. Hue, the *valet de chambre* of Louis XVI. I do not intend to deny the high regard I entertained for that faithful servant of the martyred King; but the attentions which I congratulate myself on having shown to an excellent man should not have subjected me to false imputations.

I have read the following statement in a publication: "M. Hue retired to Hamburg, where he passed nine months in perfect obscurity. He afterwards went to Holland, provided with a passport from Bourrienne, who was Napoleon's Minister, though in disgrace, and who, foreseeing what was to happen, sought to ingratiate himself in the favor of the Bourbons."

The above passage contains a falsehood in almost every line. M. Hue wished to reside in Hamburg, but he did not

<sup>1</sup> The Emperor's lieutenants regarded Europe as a twelfth-cake (*gâteau des rois*), but none of them ventured to dispute the bean (*la fève*) with Napoléon. In French twelfth-cakes there is a bean concealed in the cake; the person to whom it falls is proclaimed king for the night. This stands in lieu of our custom of drawing for king and queen. — *Editor of 18W edition.*

<sup>2</sup> Many of these smaller German Princes had, it is said, to bribe Talleyrand heavily to buy their admission to the (Confederation of the Rhine). — *M. de Ralleyrand*, by Saiute-Beiive, p. JX).